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Mayor Jim Watson tours the site of a future light-rail transit station.
EMMA JACKSON/METRO

Official urges need to connect airport to O-Train before widening parkway

metroNEWS

'An ethical problem'

CIVIL LAWSUIT

Former hospital director accused of taking part in kickback scheme

Joe Lofaro
Metro | Ottawa

Fresh questions are being raised over a California hockey trip taken by a former Ottawa Hospital director and people with whom he did business.

Frank Medwenitsch, who until his resignation in October was the Ottawa Hospital's longtime director of planning, went to watch a hockey game in Los Angeles last February with executives from a local engineering firm that has done business with the hospital.

That trip is not mentioned in an explosive civil lawsuit the Ottawa Hospital filed last week against Medwenitsch and another one of its former directors, as well as companies and individuals the hospital alleges were co-conspirators in the fraud.

None of the allegations have been tested in court.

A Feb. 26, 2015 report in the Ottawa Sun mentioned Medwenitsch won a trip down south with Bob Jardine and Mike Cleland of Ottawa-based Cleland Jardine Engineering Ltd., and another man.

The Sun reported that the group had the winning bid in an auction held at a Kevin Haime charity golf event.

Cleland Jardine Engineering's website lists Cleland as the company's president and Jardine as its chief operating officer.

Neither man, nor their firm, are part of the Ottawa Hospital's lawsuit.

The company has worked on at least one hospital project: the Clinical Epidemiology Program Research Building at the General campus.

Cleland and Jardine have yet to return calls for comment.

> **The perception of conflict of interest when you're dealing with public funds is crucial.**
> Gilles LeVasseur

The hospital declined to comment on the California hockey trip. Ottawa Hospital CEO Jack Kitts has released a statement in which he promised to "gain and preserve the trust this community has in our hospital."

But the trip raised the eyebrows of a pair of experts.

"There is an ethical problem, even if (he) went to the games or took the services or whatever and it did not influence (him) in selecting contractors," said John Bishop, an ethicist and professor in business administration at Trent University.

Gilles LeVasseur, a professor of business and law at the University of Ottawa, said Medwenitsch could have been friends with these executives as long he disclosed it to the hospital, the relationship did not create a perception of a conflict of interest, and it did not influence the decision-making process.

The Ottawa Hospital's civil suit alleges Medwenitsch and another former director, Brock Marshall, were part of a kickback scheme.

The suit alleges select companies were leaked copies of procurement documents, given insider information on bids on hospital projects and had bids rigged in their favour.

metro NEWS
Your essential daily news
Will England bid goodbye to "God Save the Queen" anthem? **World**

5 IDEAS FOR THE NEW LIBRARY BRANCH

A proposed partnership with the federal government could mean a whole new vision for the library. Metro spoke to advocate Emilie Taman from Bookmark the Core and architect Emmanuelle Van Rutten of Moriyama & Teshima Architects for their ideas on what the library could be.

1 Convenient location

For many people, a central location remains at the top of the wish list. Right now the National Archives and Central Library are both located in the heart of the downtown. Taman's group wants to make sure a new building stays in the core and is accessible by bike and by foot.

"For the library to serve its purpose, our view is that it should be located centrally and walkable to other downtown attractions," she said.

2 Museum quality

Van Rutten and Taman both agreed that the partnership is a great opportunity to give the library a museum-feel and give exposure to historical items.

"A central library often has an archival collection," said Van Rutten.

"You could get parallel programs, and I think they're complementary. It's all about how you design the two to work together; it's completely achievable."

3 Meeting spaces

One new trend that many people don't associate with libraries is the introduction of performance space, lecture halls and community rooms — assets that would be valuable to both the library and the archives. The same space used by archive experts to give a talk could easily convert into a space for a public lecture by a community group.

4 More room

The partnership with the archive is at an early stage — nothing specific has been announced on how the two groups would share space. But Tierney has suggested that a partnership would mean it would have to be a bigger space.

5 Open plaza

Van Rutten, who recently designed the renovation of the Beaverbrook Library, said the top of her wish list for the ultimate central library would be bright light and an open central gathering place.

"A lot of natural light and great landscaping," she said. "A great plaza of some kind."

EDUCATION

National heritage exhibits pitched

Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

Ample lighting and proximity to transit are on the list of must-haves for the city's new central library branch, but Canada's top archivist has another idea in mind.

Guy Berthiaume, librarian and archivist of Library and Archives Canada, wants the future institution to house exhibits on national heritage, from prime ministers to artists.

That's why he approached the city to partner up on the new downtown library branch.

"I think it could be something quite extraordinary, especially if they're building as iconic as they wish," he said.

Details of the agreement have yet to be worked out, but Berthiaume said he's looking at building additional space for Library and Archives Canada to house exhibits or run programs. That would add to the current 132,000-square-foot plan, and the national library would shoulder some of the costs of the new building.

Although the national library would move in with the new Ottawa library, it would not abandon its 395 Wellington St. headquarters.

He envisions a similar setup to Montreal's Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec — a combination of provincial and municipal libraries that draws upward of three million people per year.

If the Ottawa Public Library were to adopt a similar model, residents could check it out for the youth programming, 3D printers, books, DVDs and video games.

"Then next door, they can see the treasures of Canadian heritage. I see it totally working together," said Berthiaume.

The site and design for the new library are still unconfirmed. One possible location is at 557 Wellington St.

If all goes to plan, construction should start in 2018.

NEGOTIATIONS

Eatery secures alleyway patio

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

Somerset Street eatery Union Local 613 is finally getting a patio after two years of negotiations with the city over parking rules.

"It was super quick," said restaurant co-owner Ivan Gedz after the city approved the request in a committee meeting on Wednesday afternoon. "They just said all the conditions were in the proposal and we were good to go."

That means this summer the restaurant will be able to seat 32 people on a wraparound patio in front of the restaurant and in the building's western driveway.

Gedz said being able to seat patrons outside is good for business.

"In the current economic climate, restaurants are struggling," he said. "Having a patio during the summertime will allow our business to sustain itself. On nights that we're seeing drops in business, we can offset that by having some people outside — whether it's for drinks, food or both."

The restaurant first asked the city to approve a patio in 2013, but the request was originally denied.

The city adjustment committee argued at the time that "the existing driveway on the property serves an important function for the regular operation of the existing business on the site" and that it would cause "undue and unnecessary stress on traffic flow along Somerset Street."

This time around, Gedz said the city rezoning Somerset Street into a traditional main street helped reduce the parking requirement.

Former realtor gets 11 years for attempt to murder wife

VIOLENCE

Victim tells court she now lives in poverty, needs walker

Michael Woods
Metro | Ottawa

A former Ottawa real estate agent who tried to kill his wife by beating her with a baseball bat was sentenced to 11 years in prison on Wednesday.

Chris Hoare was convicted of attempted murder last May for the brutal April 2014 attack on wife Kirsten Cote.

"The facts of the offence are disturbing and show a cold-heartedness and brutality on the part of Mr. Hoare," Ontario Court Justice Robert Wadden said in a 10-page written decision.

Leading up to the attack, Hoare had plunged the family into financial trouble due to unpaid taxes.

He hid the money problems from his wife. But by April 2, 2014 the family's bank account was overdrawn, credit cards were past due and utilities were about to be cut off.

> **He has hurt me in every way he can hurt me. I am maimed. I am terrified. I am poor.**
> Victim impact statement of Kirsten Cote

That day, Hoare lured Cote into the garage of their Orléans home and tricked her into closing her eyes and turning her back to him. He then beat her with a baseball bat and stuffed a cloth in her mouth.

According to a victim impact statement quoted in Wadden's decision, Cote has post-concussion syndrome and suffers from debilitating symptoms that have left her unable to drive and needing the use of a walker.

"We as a family will live with the scars of what Christopher did to us for the rest of our lives," she said in the statement.

"He has hurt me in every way he can hurt me — I am maimed. I am terrified. I am poor."

Hoare is prohibited from having any contact with the children for the duration of his sentence.

Hoare will receive credit for the time he already spent in custody, so he has eight years and four months left to serve.

RIDEAU CANAL AVOID SKATING ON THIN ICE Two workers prep the Rideau Canal Skateway on Wednesday. Despite the chilly weather, the National Capital Commission is warning keen skaters to stay off the thin ice until it's thick enough. LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

Connect airport to transit first: MPP

Ottawa South MPP John Fraser said he wants the O-Train to serve the airport before the Airport Parkway is widened. EMMA JACKSON/METRO

INFRASTRUCTURE

Mayor hopes feds will fund airport link from O-Train

Emma Jackson
Metro | Ottawa

The O-Train should serve the airport before the Airport Parkway is widened, Ottawa South MPP John Fraser said Wednesday.

"We need to connect our airport to our transit," he said. "That project, for me, is a priority and I'd like to see that move forward (more quickly)."

Fraser joined Mayor Jim Watson and other politicians to tour construction progress at the future Tremblay station, one of 13 new stations along Ottawa's light rail line.

The province and feds each contributed a third of the cost for the project, something Mayor Jim Watson hopes they will do again for the $3-billion, Stage 2 plan to extend rail into Orleans, Bayshore and Riverside South.

Both governments have promised informally, and formal agreements are expected later this year.

But the city is still holding its breath on funding for two extra items on its Stage 2 wish list, which aren't included in the $3-billion budget: an extension to Trim Road along Highway 174, and an airport link from the O-Train.

Ideally, the feds would take care of the $155-million airport link, since they're responsible for airports nationally, Watson said. Airport CEO Mark Laroche said last year his board was willing to help out, too.

The province could then pick up the $160-million tab for the east-end extension, Watson said.

While Fraser wouldn't commit to the specifics of such a plan, he said he's actively pushing to get both add-ons done, in order to take advantage of already having shovels in the ground.

He said the Airport Parkway widening should wait until after the rail link is built.

"We need to build public transit and see what the impact is there," he said.

The parkway widening project has been pushed back to at least 2020 because of slow growth in the city, which has cut development charge coffers nearly in half.

Watson said his priorities will follow the money: If funding comes through for the airport link, he would prioritize that transit project first, he said.

$155M

The estimated cost of an airport link from the O-Train.

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E-COMMERCE

Finkelstein named Shopify's first chief operating officer

Shopify has announced the appointment of the first chief operating officer in the company's history — and it didn't need to look far to find him.

The e-commerce firm said this week it has named longtime chief platform officer Harley Finkelstein to the new post.

As CPO, Finkelstein built the Shopify Partner program to enhance the company's platform and merchant base. He also oversaw the creation of Shopify Plus, which caters to the company's larger clients.

"Harley is a strong leader at the forefront of Shopify's growth who will be taking on an even larger role in deepening our relationships with merchants, partners and the public," Shopify CEO Tobi Lütke said in a statement, noting that Finkelstein was actually one of the company's first clients when he was selling T-shirts in law school.

"His entrepreneurial background gives him a natural understanding of our merchants and this perspective is invaluable to our business," Mr. Lütke said.

Finkelstein, who joined Shopify in 2010, said he was excited to "continue his journey" with the Ottawa-based firm.

"I see my job as ensuring all our merchants and partners are well taken care of, so the rest of the team, especially Tobi, can focus on making sure our product and technology is not only good for the 200,000-plus merchants using us today, but the millions of merchants that we hope will use us one day," he said in a statement.

OTTAWA BUSINESS JOURNAL

IN BRIEF

Suspect sought in Christmas Eve attack

Ottawa police are looking for a man who allegedly punched another man in the face in the early hours of Christmas Eve.

Police say the alleged attack happened at about 2:45 a.m. on Dec. 24, 2015, inside a business along the 100 block of Clarence Street in the ByWard Market. A 23-year-old man was taken to hospital with "serious injuries," and the suspect fled, according to police. METRO

Ontario starts training new correctional officers

The province has started training 144 new correctional officers to increase staffing levels at Ontario's jails.

The government says the new recruits will help improve staff and inmate safety and improve program delivery at correctional facilities. It says the group is the largest class of recruits to enter the Ontario Correctional Services College to date. Recruits will complete an eight week course that includes mental health training and inmate management techniques. Graduates will then be sent to provincial facilities across Ontario starting in March.

The training of the new recruits comes as the province reached a deal with 6,000 jail guards and probation officers last weekend, narrowly averting a strike. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kanata-Carleton MP seeks public input

POLITICS

McCrimmon wants to hear your voice at town hall event

Kanata-Carleton MP Karen McCrimmon will host her first town hall meeting this Friday.

The Liberal Parliamentarian promised to host public meetings with constituents during the election campaign, a format where residents of Kanata-Carleton could discuss items of importance and raise questions.

"I'm one of these people who feel I have to be answerable to the people of the riding," said McCrimmon. "It's to create that dialogue that I think has been missing for a while."

The meeting will have a focus on the federal budget, with a summary of the government's plans.

"The meeting is structured around the budget consultation but not stringently so," said McCrimmon. "We're here to listen about what the priorities are. People can bring their own ideas about how we should be spending money and the investments that need to be made."

Attendees will receive an overview of "the challenges facing the economy" and "a summary of the government's plans to create jobs, invest in infrastructure, and support middle class families, as well as those working hard to join the middle class, while ensuring a return to balanced budgets by the end of its mandate," according to a news release about the event.

The hope is that people will come with their own ideas to help build prosperous communities and create economic growth, said McCrimmon.

"We have some significant challenges ahead," she said. "We have to make some decisions about do we stimulate the economy and how. For me, one of the key things is jobs — how do we create the conditions that companies will want to create those good paying jobs right here in Canada so they don't take them offshore?"

McCrimmon said she's banking on the innovation and creativity that thrives in her riding.

"Innovation has always been what's helped us address the challenges in the past; that willingness to be creative and innovative," she said. "If we look at our riding the creativity and innovation is there."

The meeting will be held on Jan. 15 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Brookstreet Hotel, 525 Legget Dr., in the Shakers Room.

JESSICA CUNHA / METROLAND MEDIA

Ratting aficianado Manon Brisebois, with her Finnish Lapphunds Kiirre, left, and Mysti. BRIER DODGE/METROLAND MEDIA

RATTING

New sport for dogs at Kennedy arena

Dogs and their owners will gather at the R.J. Kennedy Arena on Jan. 23 to compete in two ratting events — rat brush hunting and barn ratting.

The sport is new to Canada The Rats! Canada organization was founded in July 2015, but has drawn in many dog owners from Ontario and Quebec.

The sport is based on scent work, said Cumberland dog owner and competitor Manon Brisebois.

In brush hunting, a rat is placed in a tube with a cover on the end to keep the rat separated from the dogs. The tube is then hidden in a bale of hay.

Dogs and owners stay behind a blind, as the tube is hidden in one of several bales of hay that are stacked up in a three-metre by six-metre pen. The goal is for the dog to accurately locate the rat in the tube and indicate to the judge — whether it's by lying down, pawing at the hay or indicating otherwise — where the rat is.

In barn ratting, the event gets a little more complicated. Three tubes are put in the hay: one clean tube, one that once had a rat inside and still carries some of the scent, and one with an actual rat within it.

The dog then must locate the rat, without being fooled by the other two tubes. In this event, the owner tells the judge which of the tubes has the rat in it, based on their dog's behaviour.

BRIER DODGE/METROLAND MEDIA

IN BRIEF

Man charged in two holdups at gas stations

Ottawa police have charged a man in connection to two gas station robberies Saturday.

At around 7:25 a.m., police say, a man with a knife demanded and received cash and cigarettes at a gas station on the 1400 block of Woodroffe Avenue.

At 1:15 p.m., police say, the man did the same thing at a gas station on the 100 block of Eagleson Road, also demanding lottery tickets.

Stuart Gatt, 49, has been charged with two counts of robbery, two counts of possession of a weapon and one count of wearing a disguise. He appeared in court on Wednesday.

HALEY RITCHIE/METRO

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Kanata, Gloucester road projects delayed

INFRASTRUCTURE

Development fees fall short of projected figures

Emma Jackson
Metro | Ottawa

Suburban road projects are being delayed because of dipping development, city planners say.

It's known the Airport Parkway won't be widened until after 2020 because the city's pot of development charges is 20 per cent lower than expected.

But other projects are affected, too: a Blackburn Hamlet bypass extension has been delayed up to five years, a new road near Munster has been deferred indefinitely and the Earl Grey underpass in Kanata has been pushed beyond 2020.

Widening of Mer Bleue Road in the east end and the Palladium Drive realignment in the west end have both been pushed back into the 2020s, too.

Planning manager Michael Mizzi said the city can expect about $26 million in development fees for roads instead of the projected $43 to $45 million.

That's not the only factor; some projects are more expensive than originally thought, Mizzi said.

Councillors are concerned their priority projects could languish on the books indefinitely if developers don't start investing.

"We have a serious traffic problem on the east end … so any delay just adds to the problem," said Innes Coun. Jody Mitic.

"It means a lot more congestion," Kanata North Coun. Marianne Wilkinson agreed.

Wilkinson said the city's downtown light-rail project is eating into roads money, because developers are paying more fees into the transit account.

That leaves Kanata residents without good transit or adequate roads, she said.

Suburban road projects are being pushed back as development slows down across the city. EMMA JACKSON/METRO

MUSIC

Venues host Bowie tribute nights

Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

If you have David Bowie on repeat this week, you're not alone.

But rather than sit by yourself in your living room, flipping over vinyl and mourning the loss of an artistic icon, why not get out and celebrate his music with others?

There are a few Bowie tributes happening in Ottawa this week. Lightning-bolt makeup is optional but highly encouraged.

Zaphod Beeblebrox
You pretty things can dance to Bowie's greatest hits from the early '70s, courtesy of DJ The Fat White Duke on Thursday at 11 p.m.

House of Targ
Word is that Remi Royale will drop a Bowie-heavy set Thursday during his '80s night at Ottawa's renowned underground pinball and perogie palace.

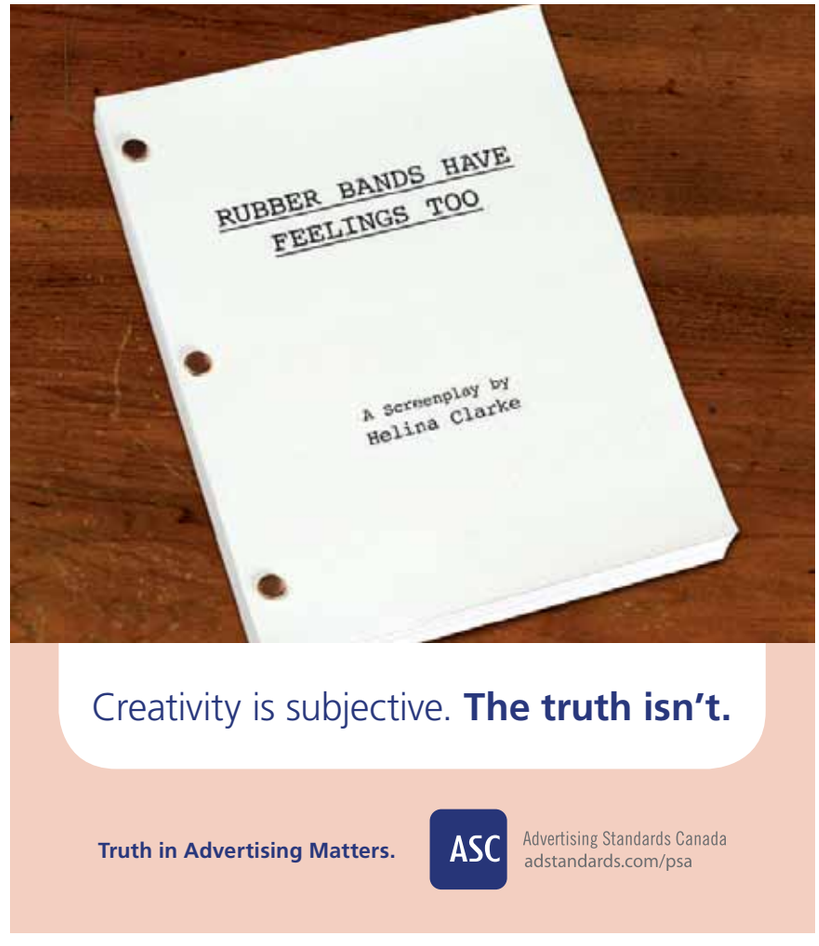
The Manx Pub
And to round out the week, you can belt out ch-ch-ch-changes at a Bowie-themed karaoke night Sunday at 11 p.m.

IN BRIEF

Brooks, Yearwood announce Ottawa tour date in April
American country star Garth Brooks announced Wednesday that he will be coming to Ottawa in April as part of his world tour.

Brooks will play the Canadian Tire Centre on April 2 at 7 p.m. alongside singer Trisha Yearwood.

Brooks released his album Man Against Machine in 2014. It will be the first time in 19 years he's played Ottawa, according to the news release. Tickets will go on sale for $79 starting Jan. 22 at 10 a.m. A maximum of eight tickets per person will be available at canadiantire-centre.com/garth. METRO



Esmerine plays the Mill Street Community Space this Friday in Chelsea. CONTRIBUTED

Genre-bending Esmerine

BACKSTAGE PASS

Band made up of Montreal music scene heavyweights

Trevor Greenway
Metro | Ottawa

Bruce Cawdron spent the past 10 years avoiding the one thing that now has brought his band's music to a "whole new level."

The guitar.

The former Godspeed You! Black Emperor percussionist and his long-time partner-in-music Rebecca Foon (Thee Silver Mt. Zion) have taken their instrumental, modern chamber music project Esmerine down a familiar road on their latest album, Lost Voices. The record knocks on that old door that opens up to a heavy Montreal, and stumbles under the influence of a deafening post-rock hangover.

The guitar and other amplified instruments found their way into Esmerine's jam space this go around, and they bring much more than just distortion and decibels. It's beautiful how five strings and a quarter-inch plug can evoke an entire era ... a feeling ... a unique piece of the puzzle that made up Montreal's prolific post-rock underworld in the early years of this millennium.

"This last record (Lost Voices) is almost like circling around back home, using the voices that we participated in making, and creating that Montreal sound that came out of the late '90s, early 2000s," says Cawdron, speaking from his home in Wakefield, Que.

"That's why it sounds heavier because we are circling back home into that zone and bringing it back into what we spent all this time creating."

Lost Voices does carry some similar haunting hallmarks of a Godspeed or Set Fire to Flames record, but with a splash of optimism.

You could call Lost Voices Esmerine's rock album, one that explores classical figures and post-rock soundscapes all in the same ephemeral moment — or you could call it brilliant.

Following up 2013's Juno-winning Dalmak would have seemed like an unparalleled challenge for Esmerine, but, as Cawdron puts it, the point of exploring the intersection of post-rock and classical chamber music with this power collective was never to sell records or win awards.

> **It's not about selling more units than the last record. It's all about ... how can we create something that we love?**
> Bruce Cawdron of Esmarine

Nor was it to gain fans or notoriety, nor to grace the home page of every hipster music blog from here to the South Shore. Though that kind of gravy is nice when it lands on your plate, it's not what drives this curious five-piece to spiral out on the beautiful tangents that characterize its sound.

"It's not about selling more units than the last record," says Cawdron.

"It's all about, 'How can we please ourselves, how can we create something that we love?'"

There are few venues that do justice to bands like this live: Churches, amphitheatres, maybe a Greek amphitheatre.

Esmerine does best when surrounded by the sort of acoustic architecture that can make the stroke of a single string vibrate in your ear; or the hammer of a drum beat inside your chest; the slap of a bass rattle your bones.

The band, which also features multi-instrumentalist Brian Sanderson, bassist Jeremi Roy and percussionist Jamie Thompson (The Unicorns, Islands), will invade the Mill Street Community Space in little Chelsea, Que., this Friday night, taking 120 or so lucky listeners on an intimate trip to the brink of aural apocalypse and back.

The crowd is certain to experience looping equations of math rock and fractured fractals of sound that will bend and twist in unpredictable forms.

Esmerine's sound will consume this former church.

"It's great to explore other spaces, especially when they are great-sounding spaces," says Cawdron.

"I love playing small shows for little hometown crowds in intimate spaces. It's really a setting where everybody will enjoy it."

Cawdron is excited to unleash musical mayhem on Friday, especially when he pulls out his malletKAT — an electric marimba that will allow him to manipulate sound live on stage — for the first time. Delving into electronic and amplified sound is a direction the band is tending toward these days, after "re-evaluating" how many layers a guitar can add to a chamber ensemble.

"Here we are using something we have consciously been avoiding for 10 years, the guitar," laughs Cawdron.

"And it's so great to rock."

Esmerine plays the Mill Street Community Space on Friday. Tickets are $20 at the door.

HYDRO ONE

Wi-Fi too weak for meters

Ontario's opposition parties say it's no surprise that Hydro One has to manually read thousands of electricity smart meters, because the devices can't get a wireless signal.

Hydro One says 36,000 smart meters in rural areas cannot get a strong enough Wi-Fi connection to transmit usage data, so service people will have to physically show up to read those meters, and the customers can't take advantage of time-of-use pricing.

Instead, they'll revert to the old billing system, with one rate for the first 600 kilowatt hours of electricity used in summer — or 1,000 kwh in winter — and pay a higher rate for any extra power above the first threshold.

It cost about $2 billion to install 4.8 million smart meters, double the original budget, and the Ministry of Energy says it's heard "loud and clear from many Ontarians in rural areas that the system faced challenges."

Progressive Conservative energy critic John Yakabuski said the government was warned there would be problems getting a Wi-Fi signal in some rural areas with lots of hills.

New Democrat energy critic Peter Tabuns said the government should "absolutely" have known there would be problems getting the smart meters to work in some areas.

"They never thought this through," said Tabuns. "They never thought it through on the big scale and they never thought it through on the small scale."

The Liberals were warned the smart meters program was a waste of money, added Yakabuski.

"We said it was a boondoggle from the start and this just proves that we were right," he said. "They failed to listen all along."

The money invested in smart meters would have been better spent helping people insulate their homes and upgrade their furnaces and light fixtures to lower their electricity usage and bills, added Tabuns.

"We could have taken a big bite out of peak energy consumption in Ontario, but the Liberals weren't interested," he said. "That money is gone."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

$2 billion

The cost to install 4.8 million smart meters in Ontario. THE CANADIAN PRESS

TREND

Circus training raises bar on fitness

Just ahead of circus artist Andralyn Zayn's debut on the bungee trapeze, she miscommunicated with a technician in dress rehearsal and did a double-front flip straight into the bar.

Doctors didn't diagnose a concussion, so she slathered on enough makeup to hide the cylinder-shaped bump on her forehead.

"There are no breaks, and your body isn't your own," said Marissa Gough, 33, one of Zayn's circus partners.

Gough, Zayn, and her husband, Duane Steel, run a troupe called Deflying Fitness and travel across Canada and internationally training participants in circus-inspired physical feats for exercise.

Circus-inspired fitness is part of a larger movement with established roots in Canada. A trend including hundreds of circus schools, troops and offshoot ventures emerged from the rising popularity of Cirque du Soleil,

"I'd think that within the last 10 years we saw that growing slowly but surely," said Christophe Rousseau, communications director for Ecole nationale de cirque. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Andralyn Zayn and Marissa Gough show how to do a handstand. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Short-term digs for refugees

LOGISTICS

Temporary housing on tap for newcomers

Thousands of Syrian refugees expected in Canada in the coming days could spend up to two weeks in temporary accommodations.

Those conditions will still be better than what people have left behind in Jordan, Lebanon or Turkey, where nearly all of the Syrian refugees coming to Canada are currently living, said Immigration Minister John McCallum.

When the current resettlement program was rolled out in November, the government said incoming refugees would spend a couple of nights in hotels near the airport before transiting on to their final destinations. For those with private sponsors, there would likely be homes ready but what would happen with government-assisted refugees — those whose costs are covered entirely by government — was always a question mark.

Ordinarily, those refugees are welcomed by settlement agencies that run temporary housing facilities, and they stay there for a few weeks before a permanent home is found.

But those organizations always had concerns that the sheer volume of Syrians would overwhelm those facilities, a fear that's now become a reality as the Liberals work towards bringing 25,000 people to Canada by the end of February.

The groups are providing daily feedback to the government on the number of beds they have available but at least three military bases are expected to be mobilized in the coming weeks to help house thousands of people.

Though government-organized flights of refugees will continue to land almost daily, the government's focus is now shifting to how to ensure the newly arrived are settling in as well as they can once those permanent homes are found.

Along with housing challenges, there is the reality of weaving thousands of new people into their new communities.

Ordinarily, refugees are given extensive predeparture briefings to orient them to life in Canada, covering everything from the weather to bank machines, but those efforts were jettisoned for this program in order to get people here faster. So all of that needs to be done now.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

$50M

Target contribution from corporations sought by Immigration Minister John McCallum to help with settlement costs. Of that figure, $20 million has already been raised.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

TOLERANCE

Pepper-spray attack victim still grateful

Ahmad Hwichan grimaces as he talks about coughing up blood and hearing children screaming in the aftermath of last week's pepper-spray attack in Vancouver.

The newly arrived government-sponsored refugee from Syria was one of about a dozen people sprayed by a man on a bicycle outside a welcome ceremony 10:30 p.m. on Friday.

Despite the suffering, the incident has failed to temper the enthusiasm and gratitude Hwichan and other refugees feel toward their adopted country and its citizens.

"This doesn't change my point of view of Canada. It will never change," Hwichan said through a translator on Tuesday, four days after the attack. "This was probably one guy who was drunk or, I don't know, crazy."

He added in English without the help of a translator: "I love you Canada so much."

The pepper spraying prompted universal condemnation from political leaders, including Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson, B.C. Premier Christy Clark and Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan.

Syrian refugee Youssef Ahmad al-Suleiman, also hit in the attack, recounted how he and his fellow newcomers were stunned after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau took to Twitter and apologized on behalf of himself and the Canadian people.

"We're not used to this back home in our own country," al-Suleiman said, using a translator. "(Syrian President) Bashar al-Assad killed around 300,000 people and did not apologize once. Canada stays Canada — Canada of dreams. One individual does not represent the whole Canadian people."

Al-Suleiman recalled seeing a man wearing a helmet cycle up to their group outside a Muslim Association of Canada centre for a bus to return to their residence. The man sprayed something once or twice toward the crowd and quickly left, he said.

Vancouver police spokesman Sgt. Randy Fincham has said officers are investigating Friday's incident as a hate crime.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Refugees Ahmad Hwichan, centre, and his sons Louai, left, 11, and Qusai, right, 8, at a Vancouver hotel they're living in temporarily. **Ahmad was with a group of other newcomers at a welcoming ceremony Friday when a man on a bike pepper-sprayed them.** DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Suicide bomber a refugee

TURKEY

Syrian who attacked tourists had ties to ISIL

The suicide attacker who detonated a bomb that killed 10 German tourists in the heart of Istanbul's historic district had registered as a refugee just a week earlier, Turkish officials said Wednesday, raising questions over whether extremists are posing as asylum-seekers to inflame anti-immigrant sentiment in Europe.

Turkish authorities identified the assailant in Tuesday's attack as a Syrian man who was born in 1988, and said he was affiliated with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

The bomber had recently entered Turkey, authorities said, and Interior Minister Efkan Ala confirmed reports he had registered with an Istanbul branch of the Migration Management Authority, providing fingerprints that allowed officials to quickly identify him. Ala said the bomber wasn't on any Turkish or international watch lists for ISIL militants.

"This person was not someone who was being monitored," Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said. "It is a person who entered normally, as a refugee, as an asylum-seeker."

The attack wounded 15 people, including nine Germans and citizens of Norway, Peru and South Korea. Six of the victims remained hospitalized on Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LE CARILLON ATTACKS

Paris café reopens

With the blood and bullets now swept away, the Carillon café reopened its doors Wednesday for the first time since it was among the Paris sites targeted by Islamic extremists in November.

The French capital is trying to revive tourism and commerce after the attacks that cost 130 lives and cast a shadow of fear over the city.

"Welcome to the Carillon," bartenders said while opening the doors, offering a glass of champagne to the first customers, some of whom were altering between smiling and crying. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1 Patrons sit on the terrace of the Carillon café, one of sites of the Nov. 13 terror attacks in Paris that killed 15 people.

2 People gather outside the Carillon café on Wednesday — its reopening day.

3 A barman serves drinks to patrons at the cafe.

ALL PHOTOS AFP/GETTY IMAGES

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

Britain to debate fate of anthem

British lawmakers agreed Wednesday to consider replacing the royalist song that serves as England's anthem at sporting events.

"God Save the Queen" is the national anthem of the United Kingdom — made up of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland — and is played at the Olympics and other events where the U.K. fields a single team.

Labour Party lawmaker Toby Perkins said adopting an English anthem would "re-establish the idea that the United Kingdom is a union of four separate nations with their own identities."

Perkins told the House of Commons "Jerusalem," regarded by many as England's unofficial anthem, was the most obvious choice.

Opposing the motion, traditionalist Conservative legislator Jacob Rees-Mogg said an English anthem would divide Britain.

"What greater pleasure can there be for a true-born Englishman or true-born Englishwoman than to listen to our own national anthem?" Rees-Mogg said.

Lawmakers agreed to hold a full House of Commons debate in March. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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IN BRIEF

Loonie closes below 70¢
The Canadian dollar has closed below 70 cents U.S. for the first time in nearly 13 years. The loonie finished Wednesday at 69.71 cents U.S. The last time it closed this low was on April 30, 2003, when it was 69.76 cents US.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Al Jazeera America says it is shutting down
Cable news network Al Jazeera America says it will stop operating by April 30 just 2-1/2 years after its launch in August 2013. While it won some awards, not many people watched the channel.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Postmedia to cut costs faster and deeper
Postmedia Network Canada Corp. is accelerating and hiking its goal to cut costs as it continues to bleed advertising, print circulation and digital media revenue. It is aiming for cost reductions of $80 million by mid-2017 — up from $50 million in cuts by the end of 2017.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

COMMUNICATIONS

Corus buying Shaw's media division in deal worth $2.65B

Shaw Communications is selling its media division to Corus Entertainment for $2.65 billion — a deal that will help fund the telecom company's purchase of Wind Mobile.

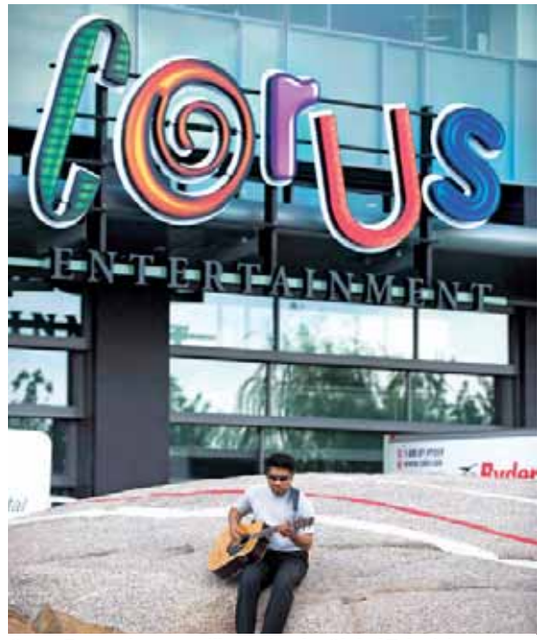
Shaw Media includes the Global Television network and 19 specialty channels including HGTV Canada, Food Network Canada and Showcase — formerly part of the Canwest business group before it was split up.

Corus already owns a number of other specialty TV channels as well as a network of radio stations and the Nelvana animation studio.

Both companies are controlled by the Shaw family through its voting shares. Shaw Communications will become a large shareholder in Corus as a result of the deal, which involves both cash and shares.

It's the second major deal for Shaw Communications in recent weeks. It announced on Dec. 16 that it's buying Wind Mobile for $1.6 billion.

After the deal closes, Shaw Communications will own about 39 per cent of the equity in Corus. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Corus Entertainment will acquire the Global Television network and 19 specialty channels including HGTV Canada, Food Network Canada and Showcase when it closes its deal to buy Shaw's media division. AARON VINCENT ELKAIM/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Join the club, share a room

SHARING ECONOMY

Service offers travellers option to split hotel cost

Want to stay at a five-star hotel in Los Angeles or San Francisco for half-price?

You can, but the only catch is you would have to share it with a stranger.

Welcome to Winston Club, a new website that launches service in March, taking the sharing economy to its literal sense.

"We are catering to travellers, often those who are self-funded, who enjoy the comforts of a four- or five-star hotel, but are looking for a more economical price point," said Bryon Shannon, founder and CEO of the Seattle startup.

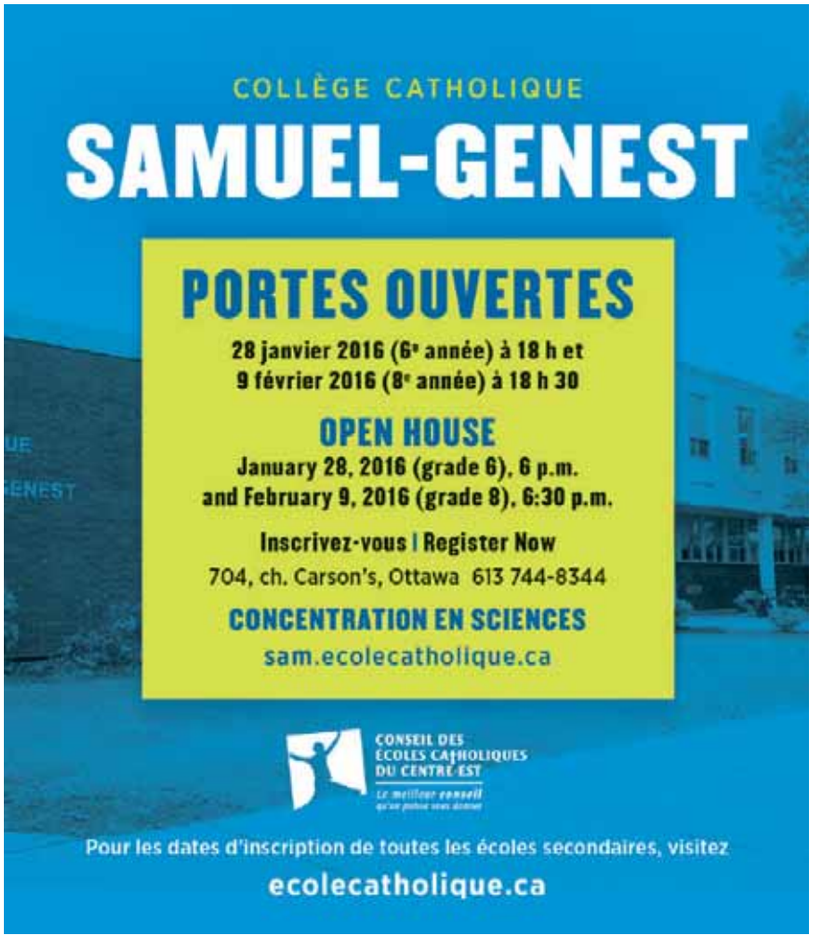
5

The number of cities in which Winston Club will operate on the U.S. west coast including Seattle, Portland and Las Vegas.

It plans to start in five cities on the U.S. west coast including Seattle, Portland and Las Vegas with a dozen hotels, though every room will have two beds, so there shouldn't be any scenes from the movie Planes, Trains and Automobiles.

Shannon concedes the idea of sharing a hotel room with a stranger is not for everyone, but argues people are more willing to try new things these days. "Companies in the sharing economy had a little bit of pushback initially. With Uber it was jumping into a car, or with Airbnb, it's staying in a stranger's home," he said.

Winston Club acts like a travel agent, booking rooms with hotels, and taking a commission from the hotel. "No hotel likes to have vacant rooms," he said. "This way, they get to sell more rooms at full price."
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE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PRE-BUDGET TOUR

Economic woes tail Morneau

No matter where Bill Morneau has taken his pre-budget roadshow, the economic storm clouds have gathered overhead.

The federal finance minister's cross-country tour, created to consult Canadians as he crafts his first budget, has been overshadowed by the rapidly deteriorating economic situation.

On top of focusing on the new Liberal government's plans to help middle-income Canadians and spur economic growth, Morneau has had to explain the "considerable headwinds" that he acknowledges have "no quick, easy fixes."

Canada's commodity-heavy economy is suffering from a toxic combination of still-falling resources prices, mounting business and consumer pessimism and eroding fiscal conditions that are gnawing away at the government's bottom line.

"The challenges that we face today are real," Morneau told a business crowd Tuesday in Montreal.

Those obstacles include tumbling crude-oil prices, a key determinant of government revenues and overall economic health. Canada has been struggling since the late-2014 oil-price shock, which forced the economy to contract over the first two quarters of 2015.

$30

The price of crude oil this week. Some analysts have warned it could fall to $20 US per barrel.

In late November, Morneau released a fall fiscal update that based its calculations using private-sector projections calling for oil to average $54 per barrel in 2016. The prediction seemed optimistic at the time; oil was about $40 US.

This week, crude prices slid to $30 US and some analysts have warned it could fall to $20 US per barrel.

The drop in oil prices has also dragged down the dollar, pushing it to about 70 cents US — its lowest level since 2003.

But even as the low loonie drives up some consumer costs, like vacations abroad and supermarket prices, experts say that overall, it should help the economy, particularly when it comes to exporters.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Finance Minister Bill Morneau listens to panel discussion at the Munk School of Global Affairs in Toronto on Wednesday. PETER POWER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Thursday, January 14, 2016

THE BIG NUMBER

42%

The decrease since 2004 in the proportion of Canadians who use cocaine or crack, according to Health Canada.

The crack epidemic in North American cities during the 1980s and '90s lined the pockets of Latin American drug lords such as El Chapo and Pablo Escobar because nearly all of the world's coca leaves (cocaine's raw material) are grown in Colombia, Bolivia and Peru. But for well over a decade now, cocaine has been losing its cool factor. In 2004, 1.9 per cent of Canadians said they'd used some form of cocaine in the past 12 months, but by 2012, the last year for which data is available, only 1.1 per cent said so. Although the war on drugs, and its accompanying crackdown on trafficking, likely had something to do with this, experts believe cocaine just kind of went out of style in addition to getting much more expensive relative to other drugs. Canadians are still getting high en masse, but more are popping prescription pills than packing pipes — although with marijuana soon to be legal, our habits may be about to shift again.

SOURCE: CANADIAN ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE MONITORING SURVEY

Air travel security policy shouldn't fly

Faisal Kutty and **Mustafa Jilani**

In the wake of the six-year-old caught in Canada's no-fly web, the government has promised to examine changes to the program. "(It's) no fault of their own," says Ralph Goodale, the minister of public safety, adding that false positives "can present an awkward situation" and "a feeling of stigma."

Awkwardness and stigma may not quite fully convey the extent of the impact for the hundreds or thousands on the list and those with similar names. Lost jobs, separation from family, fear, anxiety and uncertainty are all too real.

Over the years, many have been caught in limbo.

The program introduced in 2007 created the Specified Persons Advisory Group (SPAG), which identified individuals who posed an "immediate threat" for inclusion on the Specified Persons List, which airlines are mandated to screen against. Once flagged, a Transport Canada official could authorize boarding, request extra screening or issue an "emergency direction" to prevent boarding.

A denied person could apply to the Office of Reconsideration. However, as evident from court documents in the Hani Al Telbani case, the office's power is only illusory. The office concluded that CSIS relied on "vague and incomplete" information and had no basis to add Al Telbani. The SPAG ignored the recommendation and kept him on the list.

Over the years many have been caught in limbo. Lauren Kinney, director general of aviation security at Transport Canada, testified to a 2010 parliamentary committee that there were about 850 false positives within the first three years.

Rather than addressing concerns, the Secure Air Travel Act (part of the anti-terror legislation passed last year) exacerbated them. It authorized the establishment of a list of people who the government has reasonable grounds to suspect will, with or without intent, threaten transportation security or commit a terror offence. This, along with other changes ushered in by SATA, ensured the list would quickly grow.

The new anti-terror legislation will also make it more difficult for anyone caught up in the no-fly list to find recourse. Under the new law, such a person must apply directly to the minister of public safety within 60 days to challenge a listing. This is akin to having the fox guard the henhouse.

Ironically, as the U.S. eases up on its own lists in response to civil-rights lawsuits, the Canadian list is becoming more secretive, sweeping and less accountable.

Watch lists may serve a limited legitimate function, but they must be used cautiously. The government's appeal to national security should not exempt it from accountability, oversight and a meaningful redress mechanism.

Faisal Kutty is counsel to KSM Law in Toronto and an adjunct professor at Osgoode Hall law school. **Mustafa Jilani** is an associate at KSM Law.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

If El Chapo's devotion surprises you, it shouldn't.

If you slogged through Sean Penn's sometimes unintelligible ode to drug kingpin El Chapo in Rolling Stone magazine, you perhaps know a few more things than you used to.

Penn loves his own penis. Joaquín Archivaldo Guzmán Loera — or El Chapo, the world's most powerful drug trafficker — has charisma as well as the blood of thousands of Mexicans on his hands. And he believes in God.

In the interview, such as it was, El Chapo recounts asking God for help escaping from prison (he's since been recaptured). He thanks God that his mother is still alive and says he wants to be with his family for "the days God gives me."

If this devotion comes as a surprise to you — as it did to some — it shouldn't.

Drug traffickers across Latin America are typically religious, and Catholic, like just about all their neighbours.

"Latin America is the most Christian region on earth," says R. Andrew Chesnut, chair in Catholic studies at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond and an expert on Latin American religious history. Ninety per cent of Latin Americans are Christians, and 40 per cent of the world's Catholics live in Latin America, he says.

It is Colombian traffickers who exported St. Jude — the patron saint of lost causes — to Mexico, where he's now widely popular, Chesnut says.

Traffickers' faith is "not so much about Christian morality," he says. Since the threat of death is everywhere, divine protection "is the most important function of both the Catholic and folk saints popular among narcos."

That creates a fraught relationship, to say the least. On one hand, Latin American churches have been accused of money laundering, via cartels' donations or "narcolimosnas." Meanwhile, a slew of priests who publicly oppose drug cartels have been murdered in recent years.

Then there are folk saints, most notably Santa Muerte, figures not recognized by the Catholic Church but wildly popular among traffickers.

Saint Death is also known as a healer, a miracle worker and agent of prosperity, says Chesnut, who wrote a book on her. "If you're looking at narcos in Mexico, the most important religious figure for them is Santa Muerte."

That has made her "religious enemy No. 1" to the Mexican government, he adds, and a challenge to the church, too. But fighting the spread of beliefs is as hard as fighting the spread of drugs.

As for God's guiding hand in El Chapo's life, I imagine, in the drug lord's familiar old place behind bars, he's got a bone to pick with the Almighty.

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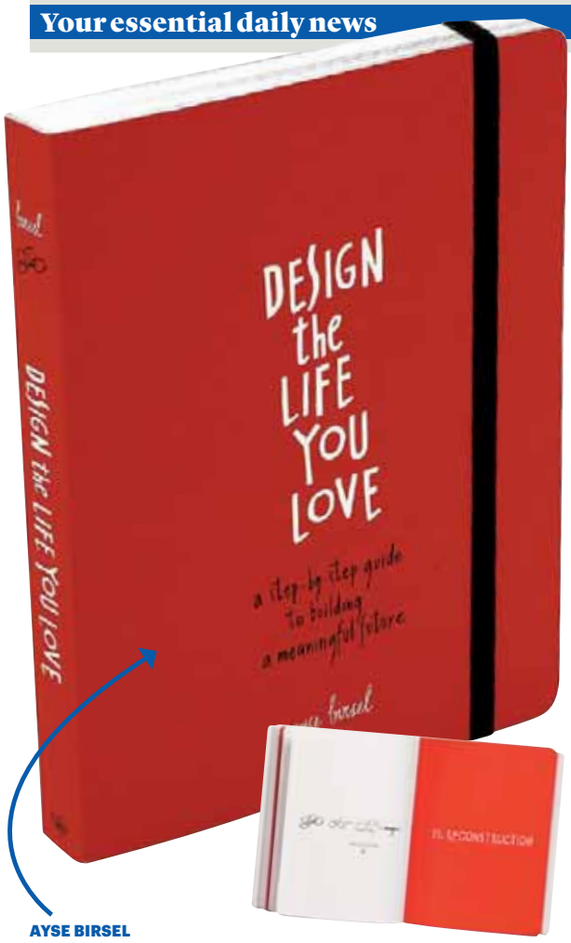
Whole new chapter

This is the time of the year to pull up your socks and be a better you. Here are books to inspire: physically, emotionally, intellectually and spiritually. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**



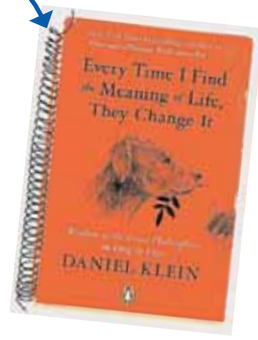
AYSE BIRSEL

Design the Life You Love

Ayse Birsel is the creative director and principal of Birsel + Seck, the New York design studio she founded with her husband, Bibi Seck. Her book is a beautifully designed self-help manual filled with words (hand-printed by the author) and pictures (doodles, drawings, cartoons and comic strip/graphic novel panels, vision maps and other creative tools) that is fun to flip through and filled with creative ideas for designing your best life possible. In her introduction, Birsel says the workbook (she prefers, "playbook" to put the emphasis on fun) represents the "intersection of my design process, Deconstruction Reconstruction, and my biggest project, my life."

DANIEL KLEIN

Every Time I Find the Meaning of Life, They Change It



Daniel Klein's new book began as a notebook titled Pithies, and contained thoughts from history's great philosophers. As a young man he hoped these notes on "how to live the best life" would offer direction. As an old man, he finds the quest useful, and expands on his long-ago pithies in hopes of helping others.

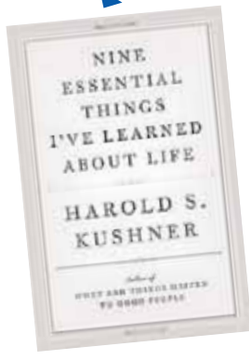
YONI FREEDHOFF

The Diet Fix: Why Diets Fail and How to Make Yours Work

What would a new year be without a resolution to lose weight? It isn't so much a diet book as an anti-diet book. Yoni Freedhoff, an Ottawa doctor, examines why 90 per cent of diets fail, and offers common sense help with a 10-Day Reset that he says can change your relationship with food forever. Tall order. Nothing else has worked, so this might be worth a try.

HAROLD S. KUSHNER

Nine Essential Things I've Learned About Life



Harold S. Kushner, an American rabbi, is the author of 1978's memorable When Bad Things Happen To Good People and his subsequent books have similarly dealt with faith's thornier questions. He writes for a general audience — which is to say you don't have to be Jewish to gain spiritual sustenance from what he has to say. His chapter titles draw you in.

WHOOPI GOLDBERG

If Someone Says, "You Complete Me," RUN!

Whoopi Goldberg has been married three times and had several other non-wedlock unions. She has concluded that finding the One isn't for her. So what can she tell us about managing a relationship? Plenty. Over 16 chapters, the actress, comedian and TV moderator, navigates the shoals of being with another.

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3 BOOKS LOVED BY SAVING HOPE STAR

Julia Taylor Ross, Star of CTV's Saving Hope shares her thoughts on the books that have influenced her the most.

Saving Hope airs Thursdays at 9 p.m. on CTV and the CTV GO app.

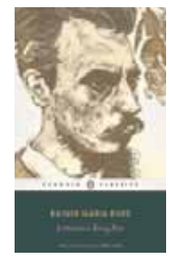
James and the Giant Peach

James and the Giant Peach is one of the earliest books I remember being read to me and then reading myself. I, like many children, adored Roald Dahl and his dark, twisted, whimsical writing. James is the story of a lost, sad young boy who flies aboard a giant magical peach to New York City, away from his evil aunts. On his journey he makes the (greatest) friends of his life. This book is about finding your community, the power of imagination and the hope of a better life. And, of course, fruit!

Light Years

James Salter died this year and many people are now realizing what an undercelebrated writer he was during his lifetime. This book is about a marriage that spans several decades. It is romantic, devastating, heart-wrenchingly honest, dazzling in its visual descriptions and so sophisticated in its phrasing. The novel is set in upstate New York by the Hudson River — a place that I find very magical and that holds many fond memories for me personally. It probably has the highest number of dog-eared passages of any of the novels I have read, and has the most poetic descriptions of food and drink.

Letters to a Young Poet



I can imagine this is on many peoples' favourite books lists. It's a treasure of collected letters that span five years, sent by the poet to a 19-year-old fan. I return to it over and over again when I need advice about the creative life — how to survive it and grow in it, as well as to read about how to be a quality human. If you're a friend of mine and haven't read it, you have probably already received it from me as a gift, because that is what it is. A gift.

Militant red teen rebel

RED STAR TATTOO

Larsen pens memoir about being teenage revolutionary

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada

From James Dean to Justin Bieber, rebellion has always been part of the teenage experience. Usually, it's no more dramatic than cutting the occasional math class or stealing a bottle from the liquor cabinet. But for Sonja Larsen, rebellion meant joining a radical left-wing political party and becoming the youngest member of its militia, an astonishing experience she chronicles in her new memoir, Red Star Tattoo: My Life as a Girl Revolutionary, published by Random House Canada.

Mind you, Larsen did not come from the most conventional family. She spent many of her formative years living in communes with her hippie parents, where sex and drugs were far from taboo, and Larsen was encouraged to make all her own decisions. Now 50 years old, Larsen acknowledges that some readers will think her parents were neglectful, but in hindsight, she views the situation differently.

"In the moment it was pretty empowering to be able to chose what I wanted to do, and to express myself," she says. "In the long run, my relationship with my parents was a sustaining force in that respect they had for me. They let me speak my mind and pursue the things I wanted to."

One thing that 16-year-old Larsen wanted to pursue on her own was moving to New York to join the National Labor Organization, a secret group preparing for the second American Revolution, led by the charismatic Gino Perente, known as the "Old Man." Larsen would soon become a mistress to Perente (later discovered to be a lifelong con man), which isn't even the most shocking situation that she would find herself in.

For years, Larsen, who is now a youth worker on Vancouver's tough downtown Eastside, didn't share her past with friends, joking that "those stories are a bit hard to just drop into cocktail conversation. Let's talk about the year I didn't go outside."

She always knew that she wanted to write, but her own story felt like a giant obstacle. It wasn't until she turned 40 that it felt like a "now or never" situation. "It really felt like if I started writing, I was going to write that story, and I wasn't sure, up until then, that I was ready," she says. "It would mean revealing a lot of other people's secrets and just being quite exposed and disloyal."

When she finally realized she needed to write to be happy, the biggest challenge Larsen faced was how to tell her story. In the end, she decided to keep it simple, a chronology of her early life told through personal memories.

"I didn't want to tell it backwards with the insight I have now," she says.

"I wanted to tell it forward as the kid and the person that I was then, trying to figure everything out."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

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Just for laughs Live

comedy métro

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Hurley a natural as bawdy queen

THE SHOW: The Royals, Season 1 Episode 6, (E, Crave)
THE MOMENT: The Command

Helena, Queen of England (Elizabeth Hurley), resplendent in a form-fitting peach lace dress, is upbraiding her new bodyguard in her boudoir. A lower-class American, he lied about his background. (And recently stopped having blackmail sex with her daughter, Princess Eleanor. But Helena is blithely unconcerned about that.)

"You've caught me on a good day, Bodyguard," Hurley says, in tones plummier than a plum tree. "I'm melancholy. I'm stressed. And I'm severely horny. Think you have what it takes to earn my silence?" He unknots his tie. "Don't let's get ahead of ourselves," she says. "Are you familiar with the expression, 'At Her Majesty's pleasure'?" She hikes up her hem, spreads her thighs. He kneels.

Not unlike dear Bodyguard, this show is groin-deep in drugs and diamonds, fascinators and G-rated filth. In our age of political correctness, it revels in the phrase "spoiled rotten." The characters cannot behave badly enough. The princess is a fashion-plate junkie. The King's brother is a leering, polymorphously perverse ascot wearer. The prince and his bland American girlfriend are "good," and therefore extremely dull; their storyline exists only to be fast-forwarded through.

But the show is Hurley, and she's a royal hoot. At least three times per episode, she announces that she's the Queen of England: "I'm the Queen of England, damn it!" "The Queen of England can't take time off to grieve." "But you're not the Queen of England, are you? I am!" Hurley was born for this role. Even her lip gloss shimmers with glee.

Elizabeth Hurley as Helena, Queen of England, in The Royals. CONTRIBUTED

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

BAD MOVIES

Fifty Shades shares lead for most Razzie nominations

Fifty Shades of Grey is all tied up with Pixels, Jupiter Ascending and Paul Blart Mall Cop 2 for the most nominations at this year's Golden Raspberry Awards celebrating the worst in cinema.

The films led the Razzies lineup Wednesday with six nods each, including worst picture and worst actor for Jamie Dornan in the sexy thriller Fifty Shades of Grey, Kevin James in the comedy sequel Paul Blart Mall Cop 2, Channing Tatum in the sci-fi film Jupiter Ascending and Adam Sandler in the video game mashup Pixels and fantasy-comedy The Cobbler.

The other worst picture nominee is the superhero flop Fantastic Four, which is also up for worst remake, screen combo, director for Josh Trank and screenplay for Simon Kinberg, Jeremy Slater and Trank.

The announcement of the Razzies, which launched in 1980 as a spoof of Hollywood's awards season, comes ahead of Thursday's Oscar nominations. The "winners" for the 36th annual Razzies will be announced Feb. 27, the night before the 88th annual Academy Awards. They will be selected by 900 voting members from 47 states in the United States and 21 foreign countries.

While far less star-studded than other award shows, past recipients such as Halle Berry and Sandra Bullock, have actually shown up in person to claim their gold spray-painted prizes. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dakota Johnson and Jamie Dornan both earned nominations for Fifty Shades of Grey. HANDOUT

Channing Tatum vies for worst actor for his role in Jupiter Ascending. HANDOUT

Paul Blart Mall Cop 2 ties for most Razzie nods. HANDOUT

metro HOME
Your essential daily news

"Broken Bowl" showcased through Maison & Objet's talents à la carte program

MEET THE CONDO

Nepean condo ready for residents

Project overview

Some residents have already moved into Stirling Park, a new 12-storey condominium complex designed and built by Claridge Homes. Nearly all of the Nepean complex's 139 units are completed, providing another option for would-be homeowners in this suburban corner of Ottawa's west end.

Location and transit

The condos are situated conveniently close to the 417 and to public transit, although the commute downtown could take close to an hour by bus. Located off Merivale Road, not far from Merivale Mall, Stirling Park offers easy access to most day-to-day living essentials.

In the neighbourhood

Besides having a mall nearby, Stirling Park residents are within walking distance of various parks, coffee shops, restaurants and a medical centre. Nepean is a safe suburban community with multiple options for education, recreation and entertainment.

Housing Amenities

Stirling Park's upscale condos are designed with large windows and open concept rooms furnished with hardwood and granite. Homeowners have numerous upgrade options and can choose their own ceramic tiling for bathrooms and front entrances. There is also a saltwater pool, gym and party room on-site.

ILANA REIMER/FOR METRO

SUITES AT STIRLING PARK

CONTRIBUTED

NEED TO KNOW

What: Suites at Stirling Park
Builder: Claridge Homes
Designer: Claridge Homes
Location: 330 Titan Private
Building: Condominium complex
Sizes: From 715 sq. ft. to 1,260 sq. ft.
Pricing: From $245,000 to $431,000
Suites: One or two bedrooms, one or two bathrooms, with a den option available in some models
Status: Almost complete
Occupancy: Anytime
Sales centre: 107-330 Titan Private
Phone: 613-224-0330
Website: claridgecondos.com

3 WAYS TO MAKE YOUR MANTELPIECE A DECOR FOCAL POINT ALL YEAR

When January arrives, even Christmas-loving homeowners might be happy to put away Santa and his reindeer.

But the post-holiday mantel and fireplace can look strangely bare.

A well-decorated fireplace — even without a wood-burning fire inside — can be the perfect source of cheerful style and warm glow throughout the first weeks of the new year.

Here, interior designer Cathy Davin, HGTV stylist Meg Allan Cole and interior designer Mallory Mathison share their ideas.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1 Keep the winter theme

Davin believes in celebrating winter even after the holidays are over. She removes red poinsettias, but keeps white ones and white cyclamen around her fireplace. And she continues lighting white and gold candles on the mantel. She also encourages clients to keep tiny white lights in their living space for a warm glow throughout January.

2 Get crafty

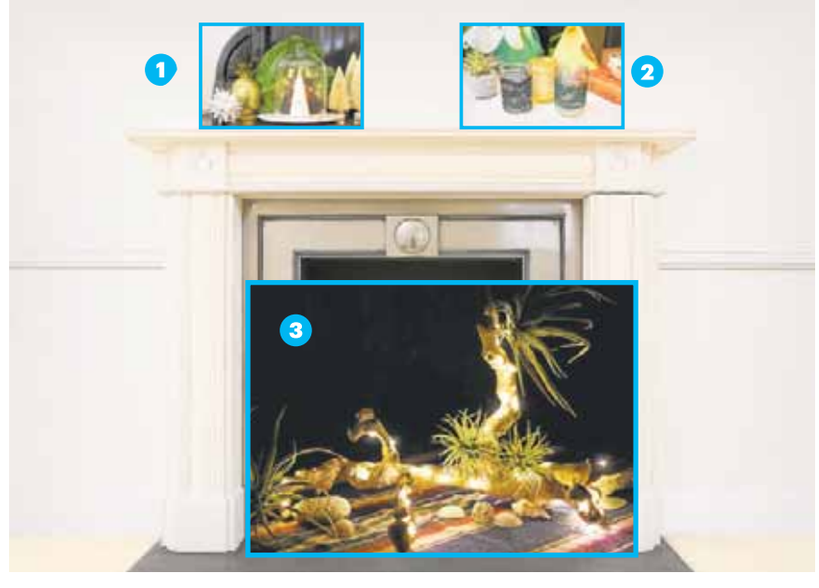
Your mantel is the perfect place to get creative. Cole suggests seeking out craft projects that use votive candles (she offers some ideas at hgtv.com).

3 Look inside

If you're not using your fireplace for a fire, use that space decoratively by filling it with candles or other items. Just remember to keep things looking reasonably natural.

"The 'go-to' is a bundle of clean, pretty birch logs that are arranged as if they are waiting to be lit," Mathison says. "I love to use andirons and then stack the birch logs in a pyramid."

Some designers fill the firebox area with small bookshelves or other unexpected items. Mathison prefers not to: She thinks using decorative items that aren't made to be in a fireplace can "feel forced and contrived."



It's showtime before walking down the aisle

NUPTIALS

Event features everything to make your day special

Jen Traplin

For those with 2016 wedding dates, the planning is already well underway. This weekend offers brides- and grooms-to-be the chance to check out the latest wedding trends — the popular Wedding Palace Bridal Show kicks off on Saturday, featuring more than 150 vendors and daily fashion shows.

"It is a one-stop shop for wedding planning — we showcase everything under one roof, in one weekend so it saves a lot of time," says Amanda Andrews, president and managing director of the Wedding Palace Bridal Show.

From separates and clean lines to natural floral arrangements and rustic venues, this year's wedding trends offer a little something for every type of celebration.

Dresses

"One of the most standout trends for bridal in 2016 is separates," says Dana Alexander-Salares, owner of With Love Bridal Boutique Ltd.

"We are seeing everything from a sleek crepe skirt with a lace crop top to a Swarovski encrusted corset top with a sassy satin skirt, allowing brides to mix and match the tops and bottoms. The bride even has the option of buying two skirts — a long one for the ceremony and a shorter one for dancing the night away."

The Wedding Palace Bridal Show features everything a bride needs, including top trends like this two-piece Mikado boat-neck crop top, left, or spaghetti strap crepe dress. DAVID'S BRIDAL

Alexander-Salares says clean lines are also trendy in wedding gowns this year.

"While a lot of brides love the romantic look of lace, on the other end, we have a lot of brides wanting a very simple yet elegant look without the lace and sparkle that we were really seeing over the past few seasons."

Flowers and Decor

Classic wedding flowers and decor are still popular as ever, but more of a natural look is starting to gain momentum as well.

> **We showcase everything under one roof, in one weekend, so it saves a lot of time.**
> Amanda Andrews, president and managing director of the Wedding Palace Bridal Show

EVENT DETAILS

The Wedding Palace Bridal Show
Saturday, Jan. 16 and Sunday, Jan. 17
11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Shaw Centre
(55 Colonel By Dr.)

Tickets are $18 online or $20 at the door. Buy tickets online to be entered into the Bride's Night Out Contest. For more info, visit weddingpalace.ca.

"We are still seeing blush and ivory wedding flowers, classic and clean with no greens for this coming year," says Cathy Van Veen, owner of Flower Essence, "but the trend for 2016 is more of a natural garden look — loose designed bouquets and centrepieces with darker greenery and tables with long garlands of greenery down the centre."

Van Veen also predicts that reception tables will be square or rectangular this year, straying away from the traditional round tables.

Venues/Reception Facilities

Traditional venues are always a popular choice for weddings but there is growing demand for barn and outdoor settings.

Luckily the National Capital Region offers a number of unique selections, including Stanley's Olde Maple Lane Farm and the beautiful Wilderness Tours beach along the Ottawa River.

ADVICE

Planning a wedding with baby on board

When Janet and Ryan Newton got engaged in the spring of 2012, they set their wedding date for October the following year, giving themselves plenty of time to plan. During that time, the couple also had a baby — their son Porter was eight months old when the pair tied the knot.

Of course, planning for both a baby and a wedding meant a few extra challenges — coming up with ways to incorporate their new addition into the ceremony, trying to work around an infant's all-important schedule and, of course, finding the time to do it all.

Newton says hiring a wedding planner to handle the majority of her to-do list was the most integral part of the process.

"I knew planning such a special day around Porter's meals and naps was going to be very difficult, especially because I was still breastfeeding, and I was not going to spend my maternity leave going to cake tastings. I wanted to be able to spend those first few crucial months devoted entirely to our new life with a baby," she explains.

In order to best accommodate Porter, the couple opted for an evening ceremony, followed by a cocktail reception. They did a "first look" and photos in the afternoon while the baby slept, including him in a few shots when he woke.

Like the Newtons, Krista and Matt McMurchy found out they were expecting shortly after announcing their engagement but chose to tie the knot before the baby was born.

"We both wanted our wedding to be about us as a couple and to enjoy our honeymoon together before becoming parents, so we chose to expedite things," says Krista, who was nearly seven months pregnant when she was married.

Janet and Ryan Newton's son, Porter, was eight months old when the couple tied the knot. COMETA

With less time to plan, that meant being flexible with dates and venues and trying to find the perfect dress for a growing body. Krista chose an empire style, which highlights the smallest part of the waist and provides plenty of breathing room.

Whether a wedding involves a pregnant bride or young children, Shannon Kennedy, owner and principal planner of Kennedy Event Planning, says the most important thing is to be flexible and understanding.

Kennedy recommends planning ahead as much as you can for those "what if" scenarios (tantrums, a sick or uncooperative child) and be prepared to adjust accordingly.

For brides who are pregnant on their wedding day, Kennedy says it's important to take care of your own needs first — plan the wedding day around times when you know you will be feeling your best and, of course, find a dress that easily allows for frequent trips to the bathroom.

JEN TRAPLIN

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Running back Marshawn Lynch is back at practice but the Seahawks wouldn't confirm that he'll play Sunday against the Panthers

Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning will make his first start in over two months this Sunday. DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manning back with a little more giddy-up

NFL PLAYOFFS

Roethlisberger vows to do what he can to crack Steelers lineup

It looks like Peyton Manning will be the healthiest quarterback in Denver this weekend. His counterpart is nursing a sprained right shoulder and his backup a sprained right knee.

"I obviously haven't played a ton here in the last few weeks," Manning said Wednesday. "I needed that time in order to get healthy certain parts of my body. At the same time, other parts of your body take advantage of that, right? Not getting hit and not getting pounded on, you try to take advantage of that and feel better for it."

Manning, who missed the equivalent of seven weeks with a left foot injury, makes his first start since Nov. 15 when the Broncos (12-4) host the sixth-seeded Steelers (11-6) on Sunday.

Ben Roethlisberger promises he'll do everything he can to be there for the Steelers. He was injured on a sack by Cincinnati linebacker Vontaze Burfict in the second half of Pittsburgh's 18-16 wild-card win.

Brock Osweiler was injured against San Diego two weeks ago before Manning's epic cameo secured the AFC's top seed and earned him his starting job back.

Osweiler worked on the side with strength and conditioning coach Luke Richesson on Wednesday while rookie Trevor Siemian split snaps with Manning. Coach Gary Kubiak said he anticipates Osweiler being healthy enough to serve as Manning's backup against Pittsburgh, however.

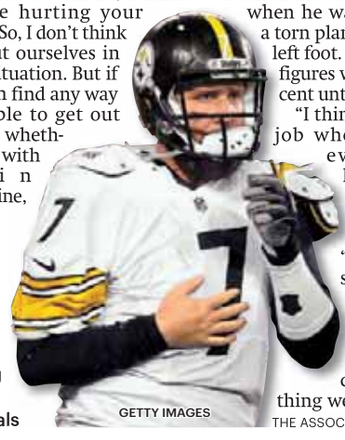
Roethlisberger sat out practice Wednesday with QBs Landry Jones and Michael Vick sharing snaps for the Steelers.

"I want to be out there (Sunday), unless I'm going to hurt the team," Roethlisberger said. "If you can't throw the ball 25, 30 yards downfield, I think you're hurting your team. So, I don't think we put ourselves in that situation. But if we can find any way possible to get out there, whether it's with pain medicine, whatever it is, if I can deal with the pain and make plays, even if I have to be in a lot of pain the next day, then I'll deal with it."

Manning is healthy enough to run Kubiak's offence from under centre like he did on 40 per cent of his snaps against San Diego. He mostly worked out of the pistol or shotgun formations earlier this season when he was dealing with a torn plantar fascia in his left foot. It's an injury he figures won't be 100 per cent until the off-season.

"I think we do a good job when we can do everything we have in our playbook," receiver Emmanuel Sanders said. "We go in the shotgun, we go under centre, Peyton's foot is healthy so we can do under centre, do anything we need to do." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

That's just who I am ... You want to be a tough guy.
Ben Roethlisberger on returning for the game-winning drive after injuring his throwing shoulder last weekend against the Bengals



GETTY IMAGES

PREMIER LEAGUE

Leicester crowds Arsenal at the top

Arsenal conceded a 90th-minute equalizer at Liverpool to lose its outright lead in the Premier League on Wednesday, as Leicester kept up its surprising title challenge with a 1-0 win at Tottenham.

Only a superior goal difference is keeping Arsenal above Leicester after the 3-3 draw at Anfield.

Manchester City was held to a 0-0 draw at home at Everton and is three points off the lead in third place.

We have to remain calm and believe in what we're doing.
Leicester manager Claudio Ranieri

Tottenham still occupies the last Champions League qualifying spot, but fifth-place West Ham is just one point behind. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WORKPLACE REVIEW

COC to implement recommendations

The Canadian Olympic Committee says it will implement all of the recommendations from a third-party workplace review of its handling of the Marcel Aubut affair.

Aubut stepped down as COC president last year after women accused him of sexual harassment.

A report from employment law experts Rubin Thomlinson identified gaps in the area of human resources systems and processes and recommends widespread changes to the COC to "significantly strengthen workplace policies, procedures, and governance." THE CANADIAN PRESS

SAFETY

The COC Board says it has approved the hiring of senior and designated human resources leadership to ensure a safe and healthy environment.

IN BRIEF

Young arson survivor invited to meet Ronaldo
Real Madrid said Wednesday that it has invited a young Palestinian boy who is the sole survivor of a West Bank arson attack last summer to visit the team and meet star player Cristiano Ronaldo.

The five-year-old boy is still recovering in an Israeli hospital from the July 31 fire that killed his 18-month-old brother and their parents. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FIFA fires secretary general
FIFA has fired Jerome Valcke for the second time, cutting ties with the secretary general four months after he was suspended while under investigation for wrongdoing at the scandal-scarred governing body. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former CFL star found dead in his prison cell
Former CFL and NFL running back Lawrence Phillips was found dead in his California prison cell early Wednesday, and officials said they suspect suicide.

The 40-year-old had been in segregation since April 2013 after he was suspected of killing his cellmate. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canucks demote Higgins after he clears waivers
Vancouver Canucks forward Chris Higgins cleared waivers Wednesday and was assigned to the Utica Comets of the American Hockey League.

The Canucks placed Higgins on waivers Tuesday, two days after the team released a statement stating it was actively trying to trade him. THE CANADIAN PRESS

RECIPE Ginger Pork Noodles

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

This light and brothy pasta marks a fresh break from your same-old pasta bolognese. And the bright snap peas remind us that spring will come eventually.

Ready in
Prep time: 20 minutes
Serves 4

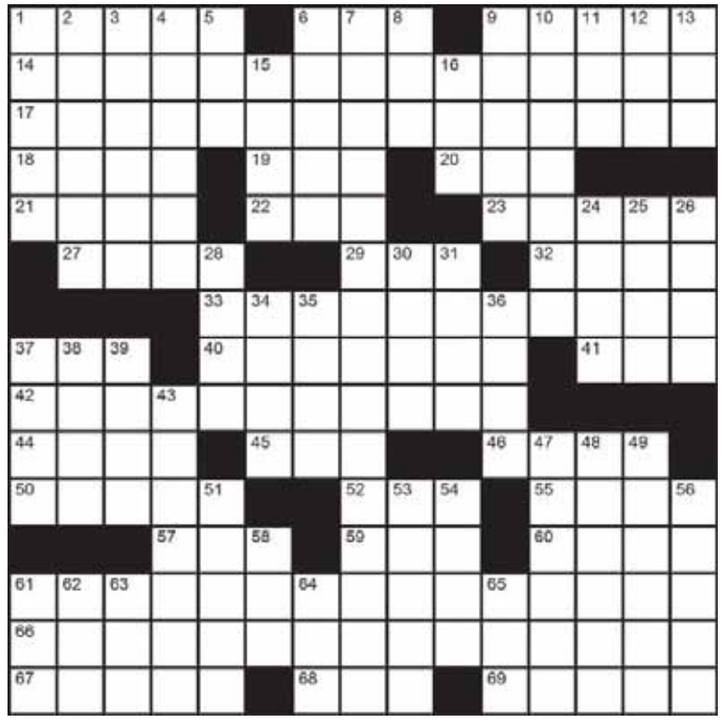
Ingredients
- 250 g rigatoni or egg noodles
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 cooking onion, chopped
- 1/2 cup mushrooms, chopped
- 500 g ground pork
- 8 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 Tbsp ginger, minced
- Salt and pepper
- 1 cup sugar snap peas (or other crunch green)
- 2 1/2 cups chicken stock
- 2 Tbsp spring onions, chopped
- 1 Tbsp fresh cilantro

Directions
1. Make pasta according to instructions and set aside.
2. Heat olive oil in a wok or deep skillet over medium heat. Soften chopped onion for 3 minutes. Add mushrooms, and once softened add minced pork.
3. After pork is cooked add garlic and ginger. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Stir and cook for a couple of minutes, then add sugar snap peas. Pour stock over pork mixture, which will make it soup-y. Add chopped spring/green onion and stir until blended. Ladle over the noodles and garnish with cilantro.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Pomp
6. Audi models
9. Q. "What Beatles song goes 'Treasure these few words...'?" A. "It's known __ '_._._ Love You'."
14. "Big improvement!": 4 wds.
17. One of the National Gallery of Canada's collections: 2 wds.
18. Obscure
19. Sass
20. Hairstyling goo
21. Ancient war god
22. Here: French
23. Do the foxtrot
27. Title for a Miss, in Madrid [abbr.]
29. Music trio, e.g.
32. Back
33. Crispy appetizers topped with cheese: 2 wds.
37. Tavern drink
40. First three words of a hoping-to-be-rescued person's promise to his or herself...
41. Director Spike
42. Canadian politician like Thomas Mulcair: 2 wds.
44. Leg joint
45. Time off, slang-style
46. Pinnacle
50. Dwells on
52. American battleship letters
55. Website's main page
57. Type of bird
59. 'Proverb' suffix
60. "From here __...": 2 wds.
61. Higher food costs mean it will be more expensive for this in 2016: 2 wds.
66. British actor who played Chief Inspector Armand Gamache in "Still Life: A Three Pines Mystery", a 2013 TV adaptation of Canadian author Louise Penny's work: 2 wds.
67. Articulate
68. Art Garfunkel's partner ...his initials-sharers
69. Ladies

DOWN
1. __ Sketch
2. Sunday performers
3. Visiting-a-planet craft
4. Certify
5. Literary monogram
6. Theme
7. Escaping-the-winter-cold vacations: 2 wds.
8. Sun. address
9. Ventilated
10. Canadian band with the 1972 hit "Wildflower"
11. __ coat
12. Lady's man
13. TV Cousin
15. Nero's 2051
16. Time delay
24. Mr. Peart of Rush
25. Tapdancer's prop
26. Gaelic
28. Cap-_-__ (From head to toe)
30. Mix
31. Explosive star
34. Beatles: "Being for the Benefit __ __. Kite!"
35. Common noun suffix
36. __ _ date (Plan the wedding)
37. Cross of ancient Egypt
38. Ms. Horne
39. Water carrier
43. New Wave band, __ Mode
47. Well-being expert Deepak
48. Canadian broadcaster Ms. Deol who famously hosted "Electric Circus" on MuchMusic
49. Marshall Mathers' alias
51. __ campaign (Political ploy, perhaps)
53. Montreal-born humourist Mort, and surnamesakes
54. Swill
56. Bridge builders, briefly
58. Samovar
61. Wildebeest
62. Scoundrel
63. Canuck cap.
64. Baby dog's cry
65. Cooking spray brand

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Push yourself today. Make a special effort to get things done on time and to a high standard. You're sure to be rewarded and employers will think more highly of you in future.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
No matter how much you may desire something once you have got it you will realize it was not what you wanted after all. The fact is you are searching for something deeper, so look inside your head and your heart.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Don't just sit and watch the world go by, get out there. Choose your friends carefully but don't get so hung up on other people's worth that you don't leave time to have fun.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Someone you do business with may use unfair methods and tactics but don't lower your standards to keep up. You may be at a disadvantage in the short-term but over time your reputation will work in your favour.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
There are so many things you want to do but you're human and have to consider your limits. Focus only on the things that really matter. Talk only to people who matter as well.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Get that pent-up emotion out of your system. Try something that makes you work up a sweat, something you can do on your own — team sports could end in fights.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Be honest about your feelings today. If you don't deal with bad emotions now they will hold you back later. If you're working on a team you need to get past the personal.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
If you fear the worst today it will most likely happen. If you expect the best you will be pleasantly surprised. The Sun's link with Mercury, planet of the mind, means that good thoughts willlead to good things.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Don't let money matters and other materialistic issues take over your life. Move past worldly things and discover the riches to be enjoyed in feelings that come from the heart.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
If your sixth sense tells you to stop what you are doing and check the details again, listen to it. Mercury in your sign heightens your perception but may also distort things a little, so err on the side of caution.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Cosmic activity in the most sensitive area of your chart suggests that your behaviour will be criticized today. If you're smart you will heed the protests and change your ways.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
No matter how weighed down by responsibilities you are you must find ways to get away from your everyday environment. Do only what makes you feel good about yourself.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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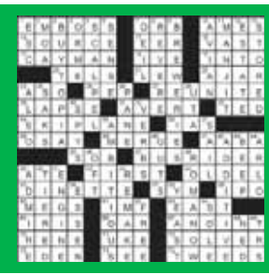

3	8	1	6	4	5	7	2	9
7	6	9	1	3	2	5	8	4
2	4	5	8	7	9	1	6	3
9	2	8	5	6	3	4	7	1
5	7	3	2	1	4	6	9	8
6	1	4	9	8	7	2	3	5
1	3	2	4	9	6	8	5	7
4	9	6	7	5	8	3	1	2
8	5	7	3	2	1	9	4	6

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